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STRENGTHENING WATERSHED AND IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT (SWIM)

DECEMBER 2016 - DECEMBER 2021

\$87.9 MILLION

OVERVIEW

The Strengthening Watershed and Irrigation Management (SWIM) project will support sustainable, agriculture-led economic growth by increasing the sustainable and productive use of water and strengthening water resource management. Specifically, SWIM will:

- Increase the sustainable and productive use of water for agriculture in targeted areas, through rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure, and restoration of degraded watersheds;
- Strengthen the water regulatory environment by supporting the collaboration between the governing bodies for irrigation and water management, strengthening the capacity of water resource and irrigation training programs, and improving public outreach;
- Strengthen the capacity of local entities to manage water resources by improving their technical and administrative capacity as well as their capacity to resolve conflicts through community based natural resource management.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Activities under SWIM will be grouped under the following three components: 1) Increase productive and sustainable use of water in agriculture; 2) Strengthen the water regulatory framework in Afghanistan; 3) Strengthen the capacity of local entities to manage water resources.

In support of SWIM's objectives, Architecture, Engineering, Construction, Operations, and Management Company (AECOM) will provide capacity building, technical services, and related resources to support farmers and farm communities as they manage their water and on-farm resources. The contractor also will support the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) to strengthen water resource management capacity and coordinate with the USAID Regional Agriculture Development Programs (RADPs) to increase agricultural water productivity. A total of \$7 million in grants under contract will be provided to communities and Non-Governmental Organizations, including women's groups, for community watershed management activities.

KEY EXPECTED RESULTS

SWIM will bring 67,000 hectares of land under new or rehabilitated irrigation services, increase water conveyance efficiency by 25 percent, and increase crop productivity in the improved irrigated lands by 20 percent to benefit 110,000 households. The project also will support the formation of 650 Water User Associations or Irrigation Associations to help coordinate operations and maintenance of irrigation systems and restore 37,200 hectares of upper watersheds. To ensure that water efficiency efforts are successful, the watershed restoration and transport zones that are the source of much of Afghanistan's water for irrigation and other uses will be given concurrent attention. In the SWIM project, practical implementation of community led restoration will increase local governance and give immediate livelihood benefits to the people. Specific benefits may include income generation, protection from flooding, provision of clean water, and conservation and enhancement of agricultural resources. The project also will seek to integrate nutrition, climate change, and gender mainstreaming goals into implementation.

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Geographic focus areas are yet to be fully identified. Selection will be based upon established criteria, prioritizing areas where the USAID regional agricultural projects are implemented.

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